

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejections set forth in the July 1, 2005 *Office Action*.

After entry of the October 3, 2005 *Amendment*, claims 1-65 were pending in this Application. In the instant *Office Action*, the Examiner: (1) rejects claims 1, 4, 24, 26, 27 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Oohata et al.* (US 5,291,788); (2) indicates that claims 2-30 and 36-65 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form;¹ and (3) indicates that claims 31-34 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants hereby amend: (1) independent claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 2; and (2) independent claim 35 to incorporate the features of allowable claim 36. Applicants correspondingly cancel claims 2 and 36, and also cancel withdrawn claims 31-34, all without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining pending claims 1, 3-30, 35 and 37-65 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1, 3-30, 35 and 37-65.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

¹ There is a discrepancy in the indication of rejected and allowed claims, inasmuch as claims 4, 24, 26 and 27 are both rejected and allowed. However, as the rejection of independent claims 1 and 35 is now moot in view of the amendments herein, Applicants believe this discrepancy is no longer an issue.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/714,639

Attorney Docket # Q77768

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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